**Guiding Questions**   
  
How did the author’s personal life help to create the novel you chose to discuss?  
How does America feel about this novel?  
  
  
**Guiding Activity**            
  
For this project, you are going to research a few different aspects of the novel of your choice and create a thesis paper.  This thesis paper will focus on three main points; the author and his life, the status of the novel in America, and the importance of the characters within the novel. You will create your paper using the five paragraph essay format and by following the instructions below.  
  
¶1 *Introduction*

* Introduce your novel, the author, and your thesis. Your thesis should be the last sentence     in the first paragraph.

¶2, 3, and 4 *Body*

* You will compile the three paragraphs any way you wish, but must use the information gathered from the following prompts:
  + Research a simple plot summary while still maintaining the interest of the novel for its future readers.
  + Research author’s background.  Does his life reflect the novel’s themes?  Are the characters similar to those of his life?
  + Research the novel’s influence on American societies and schools. Is it used often in school curriculum?  If so, which grade level is this novel most geared towards? If not, why? Is it banned for any reason?
  + Discuss two characters from the novel.  How do they compare and contrast each other? As a “team,”  how do they develop the novel? Do they give reasons for the banning of the book, which grade level students read this piece in, or how frequently the novel is used in any curriculum?

    ¶5 *Conclusion*

➔Write something about how this book affected you personally. What did you think of the     ending? Was the ending appropriate considering Steinbeck’s theme? Why is this a timeless American classic, and why is the theme universal knowing what you have learned? *\*Don’t forget to restate your thesis!\**